NORTHEAST VALLEY COALITION AGAINST METHAMPHETAMINE
Coalition Meeting Summary February 1, 2007

I. Welcome. Coalition Overview.

Brent Stockwell, Coalition Program Coordinator welcomed participants and thanked them for attending. He gave an overview of the coalition and its purpose. The current focus is to complete the strategic plan by the end of February.

II. Presentation of Results from Community Needs Assessment

Karen Kurtz, Coalition Facilitator, overviewed the problem statements developed by the Needs Assessment Subcommittee. They were summarized in four areas: Identity Theft & Fraud; Burglary; Average Age of First Use and Gaps in Resources and Information (attached).

III. Development of Goal Statements and Strategies

Chuck Palm, Pima Prevention Partnership, overviewed the strategic planning process and divided the participants into four groups to work on goal statements for the four problem areas. Groups worked independently and then reported out on their statements (attached)

Brent Stockwell announced that the strategic planning process would continue at the Coalition's next meeting on Feb. 15, 2007 in the Granite Reef Senior Center.

NE Valley Coalition Against Methamphetamine
Needs Assessment Planning Data

	Identity Theft and Fraud
Substance-related Consequence	In 2005, the Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ metropolitan areas had the highest per capita rate of reported identity theft. The Phoenix metro area had 6,406 identity theft complaints or a rate of 178.3 complaints per 100,000 population. (Source: Consumer Fraud and Identity Theft Complaint Data January-December 2005 Federal Trade Commission) The Phoenix metro area ranked fourth nationally in fraud related complaints in 2005. There were 6,576 fraud complaints or 183 complaints per 100,000 population. Scottsdale had the fourth highest number of complaints in Arizona with 644 fraud complaints. (Source: Consumer Fraud and Identity Theft Complaint Data January-December 2005 Federal Trade Commission) Through December 20, 2006, an estimated 1,005 reports involving some aspect of identity theft were taken by Scottsdale Police – a 20% spike from the previous year. (AZ Republic January 2, 2007)
Substance Use	""Fraudsters" who stay up for days at a time, high on methamphetamine, forging documents and searching dumpsters for personal information. In most cases, identity theft starts at the mailbox or in the trash can. Fraudsters looking for easy access to personal information steal unpaid bills, pulling signatures and check numbers. They dumpster-dive in the alleys behind businesses, resurfacing with social security numbers. Forged checks drain bank accounts of a hundred dollars or so at a time. Stolen social security numbers go for about $35 on the street. Increasingly more common to go for quick cash in small increments." (AZ Republic January 2, 2007) Female meth users more likely to be forgers and ID thieves. Sometimes work with burglars who steal the checks or credit card numbers and the women give them a share of the proceeds from the forgery. (Interview with Scottsdale PD January 3, 2007)
Intervening Variable	Availability of personal information. Friends and family members are often the early victims and the crimes go unreported. Proximity to the border increases the availability of meth.
Problem Statement	1. Meth addicts engage in a high rate of identity theft and fraud in coalition communities to pay for their meth use. 2. Female meth addicts are more likely to engage in fraud and identity theft to pay for their meth use.
Goal	1. Reduce the availability and access to personal information used to commit identity theft and fraud. 2. Increase the availability and accessibility of quantitative data for meth-related ID theft and fraud in coalition communities.
Objective	
Strategy	
Activity	
Output	
Short-term Outcome	
Long-term Outcome	

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	Burglary
Substance-related Consequence	"Meth users are committing 3-4 burglaries per day or night." "In Scottsdale, ATM thefts, copper A/C thefts, golf club open garage thefts, plasma TVs, ID thefts were all committed by meth users." "Copper A/C thefts net ~$50, $10,000 cost to repair each unit." "Three home invasions in the last month related to meth." (Source: Interview with Scottsdale PD 1-3-2007)
Substance Use	"Profile of a prolific property criminal is a white male, 18-45, 90% of ROPE Unit offenders are meth users. Strong connection with neo-Nazi, skinhead groups. They are not localized. Hispanics more likely to be for auto theft or theft from vehicle." Method of use is meth smoking, 40%-50% are probationers. "90% of arrestees are not Scottsdale residents, primarily Mesa, Phoenix, El Mirage – very transient group. Keep in mind, large percentages are not caught." "We're seeing a trend towards increasing violence… moving from burglaries to robberies because of the need for instant cash." "They smoke meth, steal stuff, convert it to cash and use cash to buy meth." "There are 5 or 10 different patterns. A serial criminal focuses on the crime type he is comfortable with. In the south, burglars go in through alleys, backyard entry. Up north, open garages for sporting equipment and tools. Plasma TV's by the Airpark." (Source: Interview with Scottsdale PD 1-3-2007)
Intervening Variable	"Scottsdale is a target because of the perception of affluence." "Initial crimes are under reported because they are committed against friends and family, which are less likely to report." "Meth is available because the Valley is so close to the border." "Scottsdale has wealthy people that have enough stuff. There is apathy and repeat victimization." (Source: Interview with Scottsdale PD 1-3-2007)
Problem Statement	1. Male meth addicts commit a high number of burglaries in coalition communities to pay for their meth use. 2. Meth addicts' unpredictable and erratic behavior potentially increases the violence toward victims, law enforcement personnel, and emergency services providers. 3. There is no accessible source of quantitative data relating specific property crimes in coalition communities to meth use.
Goal	1. Reduce burglaries related to meth use. 2. Have accessible quantitative data related to burglaries connected to meth use. 3. Have well-trained and prepared public safety responders for responding to crimes by meth users.
Objective	
Strategy	
Activity	
Output	
Short-term Outcome	
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	Average Age of First Use

Substance-related Consequence	In Arizona in 2006, the average age of the first use of methamphetamine was 14.11 years; in Scottsdale it was slightly lower at 13.96 years. (Source: 2006 Arizona Youth Survey, Maricopa County) Nationally in 2005, the average age of first use for methamphetamine among recent initiates ages 12-49 years is 18.6 years old. (2005 National Survey on Drug Use and Health)
	
	Average age of first use of methamphetamine by community:
	    Maricopa County North Area 38 14.1 years
	    Fountain Hills Area 50 14.1 years
	    Paradise Valley Area 55 13.9 years
	    Paradise Valley Village Area 46 14.2 years
	    Salt River Area 57 14.1 years
	    Scottsdale North Area 40 13.9 years
	    Scottsdale South Area 58 14.1 years
	    Yavapai-Ft. McDowell Area 43 14.3 years
	(Source: Excerpts from Arizona State Incentive Grant, Epidemiological Profile and Problem Areas October 2005)
	
	In Scottsdale, .8% and in Maricopa County, .9% of 8th graders reported using methamphetamine in the last 30 days compared with 1.0% in Arizona and .7% nationally. (Source: 2006 Arizona Youth Survey, Maricopa County)
	
	In Scottsdale, 1.5% and in Maricopa County, 1.3% of 10th graders reported using methamphetamine in the last 30 days compared with 1.7% in Arizona and 1.1% nationally. (Source: 2006 Arizona Youth Survey, Maricopa County)

Substance Use	Age of initiation for 8th and 10th graders trying meth for the first time is younger than the national average of first time meth use. In Scottsdale, the percentage of 8th and 10th graders using meth in the past 30 days is higher than the national level.
Intervening Variable	Meth is too readily available and inexpensive in the community.
Problem Statement	1. Data identifying the average age of first use and the availability of meth for school districts in coalition communities is not available. 2. The school districts in coalition communities are part of a county that has an average age of first use of meth significantly younger than the national average.
Goal	1. Eliminate first-time meth use among youth. 2. Decrease the availability of meth to our kids. 3. Increase parent awareness about adolescent meth use. 4. Increase data availability regarding first use of meth. 5. Develop meth-specific survey of Arizona youth. 6. Utilize valley resources to increase awareness of first time youth use.
Objective	
Strategy	
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	Gaps in Resources and Information
Substance-related Consequence	Resource and education information about meth and meth use is decentralized. No one agency has responsibility for collecting, updating or distributing resource and education information about meth.
Substance Use	Callers seeking information about resources to help themselves or others with a drug problem do not know how to use the information. There is no coherent process to guide people through the steps needed to help themselves or others with a drug problem.
Intervening Variable	Many of the available resources to help with a drug problem are geographically centered in downtown Phoenix and are difficult to access for people in other communities. There are relatively few resources that are meth specific. The known meth specific resources are becoming available only recently and are not well-known in the community. In general, the public does not know how to find information about treatment resources.
Problem Statement	1. There are substantially more people in need of specific and accessible treatment and educational resources for meth addiction within coalition communities than there are resources currently available. 2. There is no centralized, current and comprehensive collection of meth treatment and education resource information accessible to coalition community residents.
Goal	1. Assure that there are adequate, accessible, affordable, comprehensive services for meth education and treatment.
Objective	1. Identify resources available. 2. Assess if they meet the needs. 3. Develop needed resources. 4. Gaps/Barriers.
Strategy	
Activity	
Output	
Short-term Outcome	
Long-term Outcome	